

2008 Barn Quilt Block Information



Illinois Star ①

No information available.



Amish Diamond ②

Also called the *Diamond in the Square*, exhibits all the hallmarks of Amish quilting, combining simply pieced patchwork in glowing colors with intricate hand quilting. Amish quilting started in eastern Pennsylvania, the early, more traditional patterns, such as the *Center Diamond*, are most often found among the conservative Amish communities of Lancaster County. As it so strongly identified with this area, any appearance elsewhere usually suggests a family

connection. In the nineteenth century, when more worldly quilt makers were vying with each other to produce quilts with the most and smallest patches, this pattern was an example of the importance that the Amish put on non-showmanship and humility. With its large blocks and triangles, the design is simple and clear.

Source: *The Quilters Guide to Amish Quilts* by Jan Jefferson and Maggi McCormick Gordon



Patriotic ③

Also known as the *LeMoyne Star*; tradition has it that this early star pattern was named after the LeMoyne brothers Pierre and Jean-Baptiste, early residents of New Orleans, and that as the design traveled north the name became corrupted into *Lemon Star*. With its divided points in alternating colors, it was a highly popular pattern in the 1900's. The eight-pointed star is one of the most enduring of all patchwork motifs. In its simplest form, it is made from

eight diamonds in two alternating colors; it provides the basis for numerous quilts. These include the intricate and beautiful Lone Star patterns, in which concentric bands of diamonds radiate out into the final eight points.

Source: *The Quilting Source Book* by Maggi McCormick Gordon



American Schoolhouse 4

This block also has Amish origins, but for this project was taken from two different blocks and combined to make the design shown. The block “An American Household” was used to get the dimensions required and the American Flag shown on the side of the building. The steeple and bell were borrowed from a Church pattern.



Blackford's Beauty 5

Also known as the *Indian Arrowhead* pattern and a variant, *Arrowhead Star*, are reminders of the past tributes to the Native Americans who inhabited the landscapes long before Hernando Desoto or Daniel Boone traveled here. The pattern's sharply angular motif was found during the two-year study of the quilts of Tennessee, although the pattern is by no means exclusive to that state. Using a traditional nine patch format, early quilters arranged the block's six

basic geometric shapes to highlight its four arrowheads which converge at the center square. Originated in Meigs County, Tennessee, c. 1880.

Source: “*Old and New Quilt Patterns in the Southern Tradition*” by Bets Ramsey



Golden Wedding Ring 6

No information available.



Flower Basket 7

Also known as *Confederate Basket*. This was one of the basket pattern quilts made by women of the Raus community near Shelbyville, Tennessee as fund-raisers for the Confederate forces. The women would inscribe their own names on the blocks with ink as well as those of some volunteers serving in the army. c. 1863-1864.

Source: “*Old and New Quilt Patterns in the Southern Tradition*” by Bets Ramsey



Double Wedding Ring 8

The Double Wedding Ring pattern first gained popularity about the time of the Civil War, but did not reach all corners of the quilting community until the early decades of the twentieth century, the Double Wedding Ring fits perfectly into the trend to lighter, brighter colors and more elaborate designs that began in the 1920s and 30s. Patchwork in which the lines are curved is an unusual

feature in Amish quilts, as their tradition is strongly angular and geometric, using triangles, squares, and diamonds. Most Amish examples of the Double Wedding Ring quilt date from the 1930s on. The pattern we used for this project is from a picture of a Grandmothers quilt owned by the family.

Source: *“The Quilters Guide to Amish Quilts”* by Jan Jefferson and Maggi McCormick Gordon and *“American Patchwork & Quilting”* by Better Homes and Gardens.



Fish Block 9

No information available.



Maple Leaf 10

This simple nine-patch block, of which there are many versions, looks like its namesake, the Maple Leaf. Blocks are usually sashed or alternated with plain blocks to emphasize the leaf shape. Other names for this block are *Autumn Leaf*, *Magnolia Leaf*, and *Tea Leaf*. It also shows a close relationship to the popular *Bear Paw* design.

Source: *“The Quilting Source Book”* by Maggi McCormick Gordon